



ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

Fall 2010

A quarterly news bulletin to provide project managers and district environmental staff with current permit requirements, training opportunities and other environmental information.

STORMWATER/EROSION CONTROL

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspectors

There have been a couple instances lately where a contractor did not have any personnel certified as NDOR Sediment and Erosion Control Inspectors on projects that were to begin construction. The erosion and sediment control certification is an important step in managing stormwater and the specification requiring this certification has been in place since the spring of 2009. The contractors, as well as NDOR staff, should take all necessary steps to enroll appropriate personnel in one of the next available classes which are scheduled for January 20th in Lincoln and January 21st in Grand Island. A database of individuals that are certified through this program is available on Nebraska LTAP's website at: http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html

The Construction Stormwater Management Control - Special Provision, includes the following language: *"The Contractor's NDOR-Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector shall be responsible for ensuring that all BMPs are installed in accordance with NDOR Specifications, Special Provisions, NDOR Standard Plans, or the manufacturers' recommended installation instructions. The Contractor's NDOR-Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector shall be capable of reading and interpreting these documents. The Inspector shall be familiar with product and structural BMPs. The Contractor's NDOR-Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector is required to inspect, assess, and supervise the maintenance of erosion and sediment control BMPs to ensure compliance with the NPDES Construction Storm Water General Permit while preserving BMP functionality."*

Contact Information: Ron Poe – (402) 479-4499

Terminating Stormwater Permits

During the winter months, you can do a little background work to make closing stormwater permits go even smoother next year:

- Locate photographs of the project before construction began, and put copies in the SWPPP manual. That way they'll be available for the vegetation inspection when the time comes. Attaining plant cover that is 70% of what it was before the project began is essential to closing the stormwater permit. Therefore, photos of the vegetated shoulders and ditches as they were before are valuable for judging whether the new vegetation has attained 70% cover.
- Send your district's Environmental Coordinator or Carol Wienhold an e-mail message, listing projects that you think are ready to have vegetation inspected during the 2011 growing season.
- When plowing snow, avoid "scalping" grass off the shoulder.

Contact Information: Carol Wienhold – (402) 479-3917

WETLANDS AND SECTION 404 PERMITS

Reminder: Restricted Area Requirements

Restricted Areas are designated on the plans from the edge of pavement to the ROW line to protect waters of the state, critical habitat, and/or other sensitive resources. Construction activities in these areas are limited to those required to build the project as specified in the contract. Restricted areas may not be used for:

- Equipment storage and maintenance
- Stockpile of construction and excavated materials
- Sanitary facilities
- Mixing or storage of any hazardous materials
- Concrete washout

As winter nears, it would be a good idea to ensure these areas are stabilized and protected from any of the items listed above.

New Highway Environmental Section Manager

As many of you know Jason Jurgens is the new Highway Environmental Section Manager replacing Cindy Veys. Jason was overseeing the Environmental Permits Unit prior to accepting his new position. If any of you have wetland or 404 permit questions please continue to contact Jason or any of the Highway Environmental Biologists: Tony Ringenberg, Dale Vagts, Dillon Dittmer and Steve Duecker.

Contact Information: Jason Jurgens - (402) 479-4418

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Whooping Crane Migration

While you're out in the field this fall going about your daily duties please keep an eye out for migrating whooping cranes. The whooping cranes will be migrating through the central part of the state from now until mid-November. The cranes are usually in small family groups of less than 10 individuals. Any sightings should be forwarded to Eric Zach along with a location description (legal or mile marker), the number of birds, whether the birds were flying or on the ground, and your name and contact information.

Tree and Brush Removal

Now is a perfect time to remove any woody vegetation. Migratory birds are no longer nesting in the state and surveys are not needed prior to the vegetation removal.

Contact Information: Eric Zach – (402) 479-4766

UPCOMING TRAINING/MEETINGS

NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control for Inspector's Classes

- January 20th, 2011 – Lancaster Extension Education Center, Lincoln
- January 21st, 2011 – Quality Inn Conference Center, Grand Island

Re-Certification Classes

For those of you that were certified as an NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector in 2008, re-certification will be required in 2011. We will begin offering a half-day class on a regular basis throughout the state to accommodate everyone. The following re-certification class is currently scheduled:

- January 13th, 2011 – NDOR Auditorium, 1500 Hwy 2, Lincoln (8am-Noon)

If you are interested in attending any of these classes, please contact Ron Poe at (402) 479-4499 or Dennis Smith with LTAP at (402) 472-0976 for more information. Course information will soon be available on the LTAP website at: http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html